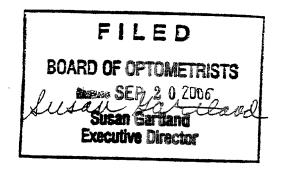
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By:

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

ROBERT RONOLLO, O.D.

License No.: 270A00261600

TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER

This matter was presented to the State Board of Optometrists (the "Board") by the Attorney General of New Jersey (David M. Puteska, Deputy Attorney General appearing) by way of a tencount Administrative Complaint filed on November 4, 2005. The conduct, as set forth in detail in the Complaint, was alleged to constitute, variously, violations of the minimum standard for optometry examinations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:38-2.1.

Dr. Ronollo (hereinafter "Respondent") is represented by Frank W. Thatcher, Esq. An Answer was filed on December 19, 2005. On June 9, 2006, the Attorney General moved for summary decision on all counts of the Administrative Complaint. On August 11, 2006, Mr. Thatcher filed a Certification of Dr. Ronollo in opposition to the summary decision motion and sought oral argument. This summary decision motion was scheduled to be heard by the Board on August 16,

2006. Respondent, after consulting with his attorney, announced on the record that he would no longer contest the issues of liability.

Respondent, having consulted with his attorney, has therefore determined to waive his right to oppose the summary decision motion and/or to have a plenary hearing and has agreed to the issuance of a final decision by the Board, as set forth herein.

Respondent hereby pleads no contest to all of the allegations of the Administrative Complaint.

The Board has considered the matter, and finds that the entry of this Order will adequately protect the public interest. For good cause shown,

IT IS, ON THIS 204h DAY OF Legtember 2006

ORDERED AND AGREED:

- 1. Robert Ronollo, O.D., is hereby granted leave to voluntarily and permanently retire his license to practice optometry in the State of New Jersey which will be effective March 1, 2007, provided that the Board does not receive any complaints related to Dr. Ronollo's performance of optometry examinations between the date of entry of this order and March 1, 2007. In the event the Board does receive a complaint regarding Dr. Ronollo's performance of optometry examinations he is required to, and agrees to, immediately surrender his license with prejudice. Respondent's permanent retirement of his license shall have the effect of a surrender with prejudice for purposes of the Directives attached hereto as Exhibit "A."
- 2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000 for the offenses set forth in Counts 1 through 10 of the Administrative Complaint, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25. Said penalty shall be permanently stayed provided that Dr. Ronollo complies with all terms of this

Consent Order. Failure by Dr. Ronollo to comply with any terms of this Consent Order shall result in the immediate imposition of the \$10,000 penalty along with any other appropriate remedies.

- \$11,554.98, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25(d). Respondent shall remit the payment of costs to the Board in thirty-five (35) consecutive monthly installments of \$320 and one final installment of \$354.98. Payments shall be made by certified check or other guaranteed funds payable to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists and sent to the attention of the Executive Director of the Board of Optometrists, 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Each payment shall be due on the 1st of each month commencing on the first month after this Order is filed with the Board. A certificate of debt shall be issued upon the entry of this Order. In the event that a monthly payment is not received within five (5) days of its due date, the entire balance of the costs and the stayed civil penalty imposed in paragraph 2 above shall become due and owing.
- 4. It is intended by the parties that this Order shall resolve all administrative and license issues with Respondent which were specifically alleged as violations by the Attorney General in the present Administrative Complaint.
- 5. Respondent shall comply with the "Directives" attached hereto as Exhibit A which are incorporated herein by reference.

6. This Order is effective upon entry.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

By: Mitchell Firk, O.D., President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its contents.

Robert Ronollo, O.D.

Dated: 08-23-2006

Consented as to form and entry.

Thatcher, Lonabaugh, Thatcher & Passarella, P.C.

Bv:

Frank W. Thatcher, Esq.

Dated: 9/6/06

EXHIBIT A

DIRECTIVES

A practitioner whose license is suspended or revoked or whose surrender of license with or without prejudice has been accepted by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists (the "Board") shall comply with the following:

- 1. Promptly deliver to the Board the original license and current registration certificates, registration renewal certificates and branch office registration certificates and, if authorized to prescribe, the current certification for use and prescription of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.
- 2. Desist and refrain from the practice of the licensed profession in any form either as principal or employee of another. Accordingly, during a period of suspension, respondent may not employ a currently licensed optometrist; may not derive any benefit from a corporation which employs optometrists; and may not derive any benefit from a management company which runs the business elements of an optometric practice.
- 3. Inform each patient at the time of any inquiry of the suspended, revoked or retired status of the licensee. Notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, when a new professional is selected by a patient, the disciplined practitioner shall promptly make available the original or complete copy of the existing patient record to the new professional, or to the patient if no new professional is selected. Such delivery of records does not waive any right of the disciplined practitioner to claim compensation earned for prior services lawfully rendered.
- 4. Not occupy, share or use office space in which another licensee practices the profession.

- 5. Desist and refrain from furnishing professional services; giving any patient consultation regarding patient care; having other contact with patients in connection with his/her optometric practice except for facilitating the access of patients to their patient records; or giving an opinion as to the professional practice or its application, or any advice with relation thereto; and from holding him/herself out to the public as being entitled to practice the profession or in any way assuming to be a practicing professional or assuming, using or advertising in relation thereto in any other language or in such a manner as to convey to the public the impression that such person is a legal practitioner or authorized to practice the licensed profession. This prohibition includes refraining during the period of suspension or revocation from placement of any advertisement or professional listing in any advertising medium suggesting eligibility for practice or good standing, such as listing in a professional directory of any type or a telephone directory or radio or television advertisement.
- 6. Not use any sign or advertise that such person, either alone or with any other person has, owns, conducts or maintains a professional office or offices of any kind for the practice of the profession or that such person is entitled to practice, and such person shall promptly remove his/her name from any sign, advertisement or phone message suggesting the ability of the disciplined practitioner to practice the profession.
- 7. Cease to use any stationery whereon such person's name appears as a professional in practice. If the practitioner was formerly authorized to issue written prescriptions for medication or treatment, such prescription pads shall be destroyed if the license was revoked. If the license was suspended, the prescription pads shall be destroyed or shall be stored in a secure location to prevent theft or any use whatsoever until issuance of a Board Order authorizing use by the practitioner.

Similarly, medications possessed for office use shall be lawfully disposed of, transferred or safeguarded.

- 8. During the period of active suspension, the disciplined licensee shall be required to deliver a message to those telephoning the former office informing callers that the practice is being conducted by another licensee, announcing the name, address, and telephone number of that licensee, and advising the patients how they may obtain their patient records.
- 9. Not share in any fee for professional services performed by another professional following the suspension revocation or surrender of license, but the practitioner may be compensated for the reasonable value of the services lawfully rendered and disbursements incurred on the patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the suspension, revocation or surrender.
- 10. Respondent is not permitted to enter the professional premises at any time for any reason during the period of active suspension. Subject to prior written approval by the Board, the disciplined licensee may allow another licensee to use the professional office premises formerly occupied by the disciplined licensee on the following conditions only:
- (a) The new licensee shall conduct the practice in every respect as his/her own practice including billings, claim forms, insurance provided numbers, telephone numbers, etc.;
- (b) The disciplined licensee may accept no portion of the fees for professional services rendered by the new licensee, whether by percentage of revenue, per capita patient, or by any other device or design, however, contracting for, or accepting payment from, the new licensee for rent (not exceeding fair market value) of the premises and/or equipment is permissible;
- (c) The new licensee shall not use of the name of the disciplined licensee or a personally owned office name or tax or provider identification number;

- (d) Where the disciplined licensee was using an individual IRS number or where the licensee was the sole member of an incorporated professional association or a corporation, the disciplined licensee may contract to rent the office premises to a new practitioner. The new practitioner must use his/her own name and own provider number on all bills and insurance claim forms. Neither the name or the number of the disciplined licensee may be used. When the license of a sole practitioner has been revoked, a trade name must be canceled and a professional service corporation must be dissolved; and
- (e) Where the disciplined licensee is a member of a professional group which uses a group-type name such as the ABC Optometric Group, after the effective date of the Board disciplinary Order the disciplined licensee must arrange to have his/her name deleted, covered upor or otherwise obliterated on all office signs, advertisements published by the group and on all printed billings and stationary. The other group members may continue to function under the incorporated or trade name, minus the name of the disciplined licensee, and may continue to use its corporate or professional identification number.
- 11. Report promptly to the Board compliance with each directive requiring monies to be reimbursed to patients or to other persons or third party payers or to any court, and regarding supervisory reports or other special conditions of the Order.
- 12. A practitioner whose practice privileges are affected by a Board disciplinary Order shall, within 30 days after the effective date of the Board Order, file with the Executive Director of the Board a detailed affidavit specifying by correlatively lettered and numbered paragraphs how such person has fully complied with this directive. The affidavit shall also set forth the residence or other address and telephone number to which communications may be directed to such person. Any

change in the residence address or telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Board Executive Director.

13. Where the Board has stayed any part of a suspension order to allow professional practice on probation or on specified practice conditions, the licensee shall fully cooperate with the Board or designated representatives, including the Enforcement Bureau, in ongoing monitoring of the licensees status and practice. Monitoring of practice conditions may include, but is not limited to, inspection and copying of patient and business records to verify compliance with the Board Order and accepted standards of practice. Monitoring of status conditions may include, but is not limited to, licensee cooperation in providing releases permitting unrestricted access to records and other information to the extent permitted by law, from any treatment facility, treating practitioner, support group, rehabilitation program for impaired licensees or other individual/facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the. If bodily substance monitoring has been ordered, the licensee shall fully cooperate by responding to a demand for breath, blood, urine or other samples in a timely manner and providing the designated sample.